GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:416
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000
CLEANING OF YAMUNA
RAMESH CHAND TOMAR;SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Yamuna is a highly polluted river;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to clean this river;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the likely time by which the quality of the water in the river would improve and the entire cleaning process be over?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in respect of parts (a) to (d) of reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.416 for 24.04.2000 regarding cleaning of Yamuna.

(a) Yes, Sir. Yamuna is a polluted river along Delhi and down-stream.

(b) & (c) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Yamuna Action Plan is Rs.509.45 crore. Under this Plan, pollution abatement works have been taken up in 12 towns of Haryana and 8 towns of Uttar Pradesh besides Delhi.The works include construction of sewage treatment plants, intercepting sewers, crematoria, low cost toilets, bathing ghats, plantation and public participation. So far, an expenditure of Rs.418 crore has been incurred on the action plan. In addition to two sewage treatment plants constructed under the Yamuna Action Plan in Delhi, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has taken up a Plan to construct another 14 sewage treatment Plants out of their own plan budget to increase the sewage treatment capacity from the present 1200 million litres per day to 2300 million litres per day. Out of these, 6 have already been completed and 7 are in advanced stages of completion and will be completed by March, 2001. Tenders for the remaining one sewage treatment plant have been invited. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have also decided to undertake complete rehabilitation of the sewerage system so that all the surface drains presently discharging waste water into the river are intercepted and diverted for treatment to the respective sewage treatment plant. A minimum flow of 10 cubic metres per second of fresh water is desired in the river for which all the riparian states except Delhi have started releasing their share. As a measure to tackle industrial pollution, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has decided to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants in 21 industrial estates of Delhi which are under implementation. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has also issued closure orders to 2616 identified water polluting units. In Haryana, out of 21 identified grossly polluting units along Yamuna, 12 units are complying with discharge standards, five units are closed and four units are defaulters facing action under the environmental law. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, out of 11 grossly polluting units discharging waste water into river Yamuna, six units are complying with discharge standards, four units are closed and one unit is defaulter facing action under the environmental law.

(d) The quality of river water would improve after completion of the sewage treatment plants under construction, rehabilitation of sewerage system and construction of effluent treatment plants in Delhi. This is likely to take about four years.